



## **2000 USE OF FORCE**

### **2010 GENERAL POLICY** (Revised: June 11, 2021)

In accordance with the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and the Tucson Police Department Mission Statement, it is the sworn duty of every officer to safeguard and protect human life. Members shall treat all persons with respect, professionalism, and courtesy. If the use of force becomes necessary, members shall use force proportionate to the threat.

It is neither the policy of the department nor the intent of these *General Orders* that officers unnecessarily or unreasonably endanger themselves or others. The force model is to be used as a general guide to using force when necessary.

#### **Duty to Intervene**

A member who observes another member using inappropriate, unnecessary, or unreasonable force shall intervene to stop the use of force as soon as possible. A member who witnesses inappropriate, unnecessary, or unreasonable use of force by another member shall report it as soon as practicable to a supervisor.

#### **Duty to Render Aid**

If the use of force becomes necessary, members shall, as soon as practicable, provide medical care to any person who has visible injuries, appears to be agitated or in distress, complains of being injured, or requests medical attention.

As soon as it is safe to do so, members shall ensure that appropriate care is given to the recipient of force. This includes moving the person into the recovery position unless an articulable medical condition exists that may endanger the person (e.g., neck or spinal injuries).

## **2020 DEFINITIONS**

### **De-escalation**

De-escalation is acting and/or communicating verbally or non-verbally throughout a potential force encounter to stabilize the situation and reduce the immediacy of a threat so that more time, options, and resources are available to resolve the situation using the least force necessary. De-escalation is also an effort to reduce or end the need for use of force after a threat has diminished.

When reasonable, officers will gather information about the incident, assess the risk, assemble resources, attempt to slow momentum, communicate with the subject, provide an opportunity for compliance, and coordinate a response. Officers should use warnings, verbal persuasion, and other tactics as alternatives to higher levels of force. When feasible, an officer may withdraw to a position that is tactically more secure or allows greater distance in order to consider or deploy a greater variety of force options.



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**Force**

Force is any physical effort by a department member to compel the compliance of an unwilling subject.

**Lawful Purpose**

A use of force must be for a lawful purpose. Officers may use force in the performance of their duties to:

- Effect a lawful arrest, detention, or search;
- Overcome resistance or prevent escape;
- Prevent the commission of a crime;
- Defend themselves or others;
- Gain compliance with a lawful order; or
- Prevent a person from injuring himself/herself—however, an officer is prohibited from using lethal force against a person who presents only a danger to himself/herself and does not pose an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to another person.

**Objectively Reasonable**

Officers must make split-second decisions regarding the use of force in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving. Reasonableness of force is based on circumstances known by the officer at the time each instance of force is used. This is an objective standard judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer in the moment rather than with the benefit of hindsight.

There are many components that factor into objectively reasonable decisions to use force, including all of the following:

- The purpose of the use of force (was it lawful?);
- Efforts to de-escalate the situation;
- The proportionality of force used to force encountered;
- The nature, seriousness, and immediacy of the threat encountered;
- Whether the officer's actions unnecessarily or recklessly escalated the situation.

**Proportionality**

Officers shall balance the circumstances known to or perceived by the officer at the time with the severity of the offense committed, the subject's level of resistance, and the immediacy of the threat. Proportionate force does not require officers to use the same type or amount of force as the subject. The more immediate the threat and the more likely that the threat will result in serious physical injury or death, the greater the level of force that may be proportionate, reasonable, and necessary to counter it.

**Provocation**

Provocation includes conduct that may create or contribute to a need to use force that might not otherwise be necessary. This can include illegal searches, detentions, and entries into



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residences. It can also include unprofessional exchanges or other acts, intentional or reckless, that provokes the subject or contributes to the need to use force. Such conduct must be documented and considered in determining whether the officer unnecessarily or recklessly escalated the situation.

**Significant Injury**

A significant injury is a physical injury resulting from a use of force that creates a reasonable risk of death or causes serious disfigurement, serious impairment of health, or loss or impairment of any bodily organ or limb. Examples of significant injury include: broken bones, closed head injuries, loss of consciousness, impairment of limbs, and/or any injuries that could result in death or disfigurement. Sutures are not considered a significant injury by themselves, but extensive suturing may rise to this level, depending on the circumstances.

**2030 USE OF FORCE PROHIBITED**

An officer shall **not** use physical force:

- To punish or retaliate;
- Against individuals who only confront them verbally, unless the vocalization significantly impedes a legitimate law enforcement function and creates an immediate safety concern (e.g., incitement to violence or destruction of property, threats to officers or others); or
- On handcuffed or otherwise restrained subjects, except in exceptional circumstances when the subject's actions must be stopped to prevent injury, escape, or destruction of property. In such circumstances, officers shall articulate:
  - Why force was necessary, and
  - Why no effective alternative to the use of force appeared to exist.

**2040 FORCE MODEL**

This model describes levels of resistance officers may encounter and the levels of force officers may use to lawfully overcome that resistance.

Force situations are dynamic and require an officer to continually assess the subject's actions to ensure an objectively reasonable response. Officers shall initiate and transition to levels or types of force, including attempts to de-escalate, in relation to the amount of resistance offered by a subject. Circumstances that influence the level of force used by the officer include, but are not limited to:

- The nature of the offense;
- The immediacy of the threat faced by the officer or others;
- The behavior and actions of the subject, such as resistive acts, aggressive acts, etc.;
- The physical size and conditioning of the subject relative to the officer;
- The feasibility and availability of alternative responses; and
- The availability of additional officers.

Officers shall consider whether a subject's failure to comply is a deliberate attempt to resist or an inability to comply based on factors including, but not limited to:



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- Medical conditions;
- Mental impairment;
- Developmental disability;
- Physical limitation;
- Age;
- Language barrier;
- Drug or alcohol intoxication;
- Mental health crisis; and
- Hearing impairment.

When it is necessary for officers to exercise physical control of a violent, assaultive, or resisting individual to make an arrest or protect others from harm, they shall:

- Recognize that their conduct prior to using force, including the display of a weapon, may influence the level of force necessary in a given situation;
- Exercise reasonable care that their actions do not precipitate an unnecessary or disproportionate use of force by placing themselves or others in jeopardy, or by not following policy or training; and
- Continually assess and reassess the situation and adjust the level of force appropriately.

**2041 Levels of Resistance**

Levels of resistance by a subject include:

- Psychological Intimidation: Non-verbal cues indicating the subject's state of agitation, alertness, and readiness to resist.
- Verbal Non-Compliance: Verbal responses indicating the subject's unwillingness to comply with direction. This may include verbal threats. A person has a constitutionally protected right to protest, and speech directed at an officer is generally protected by the First Amendment. However, threats (or "fighting words") are not protected speech. Verbal provocation that does not create an immediate safety concern, however, does not justify using force.
- Passive Resistance: Physical non-compliance that does not actively prevent the officer's attempt at control.

**\*\* A force response to resistance at the psychological intimidation, verbal non-compliance or passive resistance level shall be limited to verbal direction, handcuffing, escort and control holds. \*\***

- Defensive Resistance: Physical attempts to actively prevent the officer's control without attempting to harm the officer.
- Active Aggression: Attempted or actual physical assault on the officer where the subject prepares or attempts to strike, strikes, or acts in a manner that may result in injury to the officer.
- Deadly Force: Assaultive acts of aggression directed toward an officer or another that are likely to cause serious injury or death.



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**2042 Levels of Force and Control**

Levels of force and control employed by members are:

- Officer Presence: Authority is established by the officer's presence in uniform, by verbal identification as a peace officer, or by clear display of department badge or identification.
- Verbal Direction: Communication directed at a subject to control their actions. Officers will, when reasonably possible, use verbal communication skills to control subjects before resorting to physical control methods.
- Empty Hand Control: Force techniques using the officer's body without the aid of weapons or equipment. Empty hand control is divided into two (2) categories:
  - "Soft" control—physical interaction (excluding strikes) meant to separate, guide, and/or control, which does not cause injury greater than temporary pain or redness.
  - "Hard" control—physical interaction (including strikes) meant to separate, guide, and/or control, which are likely to result in injuries greater than temporary pain or redness.

**\*\* The use of vascular neck restraint (carotid) or chokeholds is prohibited. \*\***

- Intermediate Weapons: Weapons that provide a means of controlling subjects when deadly force is not justified and empty hand control techniques are insufficient or tactically unsound. The following are types of intermediate weapons:
  - Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray—OC spray shall only be used to counter defensive resistance or greater.
  - PepperBalls—Capsules filled with a capsaicin powder and fired from a compressed-air-powered launcher. PepperBalls may be fired directly at a subject, or they may be fired to strike near a subject, to deliver a more dispersed OC payload. PepperBalls shall only be used to counter defensive resistance or greater.
  - Impact Weapon—any object used to strike a subject in a manner that is reasonably likely to cause injury. An impact weapon shall only be used to counter defensive resistance when the officer's empty hand control is insufficient to overpower the resistance or the officer is facing greater force. An impact weapon may be used in lieu of OC spray when the properties of OC spray would make its use ineffective or dangerous to the officer, e.g., inside a small, confined area.
  - Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW)—any less-lethal conducted electrical weapon, e.g., TASER. CEWs shall only be used to counter active aggression or deadly force.
  - Less-lethal Munitions—Kinetic-impact or chemical-agent munitions designed to disrupt a subject's threatening action with minimal risk of serious injury or death.
    - Kinetic-impact rounds include department approved flex batons and other specialty munitions, e.g., 37mm and 40mm foam rounds. Generally, kinetic-impact rounds shall only be used to counter active aggression or greater. However, kinetic-impact rounds may be used when a subject is causing serious or life-threatening injury to him or herself, or is threatening to cause such injury and has the means to do so.
    - Chemical agents including o-chlorobenzylidene malononitrile (CS) shall only be used during tactical team operations or similar deployments.



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- **Deadly Force:** Force that is likely to cause serious injury or death. Use of a firearm is not the only means of employing deadly force.

**\*\* The use of the "spit sock" is prohibited. \*\***

**2050 POINTING FIREARMS**

Officers shall not point a firearm at an individual unless they reasonably believe it is necessary to protect against a potential use of force. Unholstering or displaying a firearm, including at a low-ready position without pointing it at a person, does not require a use of force report. Firearms shall be secured or holstered as soon as possible after the perceived threat has ended.

**2060 DEADLY FORCE**

Deadly force is authorized when an officer reasonably perceives an imminent threat of serious physical injury or death to the officer or another person. Deadly force is a measure to be employed only in the most extreme circumstances when less-lethal means of force have failed or could not reasonably be employed.

Officers shall, whenever possible, identify themselves as police officers and issue a verbal warning prior to using deadly force, unless such identification and warning would jeopardize their safety or the safety of another person.

**2061 Use of Firearms**

Officers may discharge a firearm:

- During department qualifications or firearms training at an approved range;
- For test firing by the Crime Lab;
- To kill a dangerous animal when necessary to protect against potential injury to a person or another animal;
- To kill a seriously injured animal when obtaining assistance from Pima Animal Control for treatment or euthanasia would not be practicable; or
- When justified in using deadly force.

Officers shall not discharge a weapon:

- As a warning shot;
- At a moving vehicle;
- From a moving vehicle.

Officers shall not handle a firearm in a careless or reckless manner.

**2070 USE OF FORCE REPORTING, INVESTIGATION, AND REVIEW**

The Tucson Police Department recognizes the enormous responsibility that comes with the constitutional authority to use force. This responsibility includes maintaining vigorous and transparent oversight systems to ensure accountability and maintain public trust. In order to



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ensure transparency and accountability, all members shall adhere to the reporting requirements and responsibilities contained in *General Orders*.

The requirements for reporting, investigating, and reviewing use of force incidents are separated into types based on the nature of the incident. The listed table for **Use of Force—Classifications and Review Mechanism** shall be followed when reporting and documenting the use of force.

**2071 Chain of Command (COC) Requirements**

Generally, uses of force will be investigated by the COC. The COC will evaluate and/or respond to all reportable uses of force and will refer cases to the Office of Professional Standards (OPS) as appropriate.

- **Involved Officer Responsibilities**

Upon being involved in a reportable use of force, officers shall:

- Ensure that a supervisor is verbally notified of the use of force as soon as practicable;
- Remain on scene until released by a supervisor; and
- Complete thorough and accurate written reports documenting the use of force by the end of the shift, unless otherwise directed by a supervisor.

- **Witness Officer Responsibilities**

A witness officer is any officer who is on scene at the time force is used who did not use reportable force. Witness officers shall:

- Ensure that a supervisor is verbally notified of the use of force as soon as practicable;
- Remain on scene until released by a supervisor; and
- Complete thorough and accurate written reports documenting the use of force by the end of the shift, unless otherwise directed by a supervisor.

- **Supervisor Responsibilities**

Upon being advised of a reportable use of force, a supervisor shall:

- When required by *GO 2080*, respond to the scene of the incident;
- Separate involved officers from the suspect and substitute officers who were not involved in the altercation to manage the individual(s) in-custody;
- Identify involved parties and witnesses;
- Identify and preserve evidence;
- Classify the type of force used, making investigative and command notifications as outlined in *GO 2080*;
- Ensure that involved and witness officer reports are thorough and accurate; and
- Document investigative actions taken.
- Ensure that the use of force report is documented at the beginning of the narrative of either the incident report or a supplementary report with the phrase, "USE OF FORCE REPORT COMPLETED."

Commander notification is mandatory in the following situations:

- In-custody death, regardless of use of force;
- Use of force resulting in significant injury, e.g., broken bones, extensive sutures, loss of consciousness;
- Hard control against a restrained person;





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- Police Service Dog bites;
  - Use of deadly force, regardless of injury; or
  - Unreasonable or disproportionate use of force, or other serious policy violations, including constitutional violations.
- Commander Responsibilities  
Commander response to the scene is generally at the discretion of the commander. At a minimum, a reviewing commander shall:
    - Ensure that the type of force used is appropriately classified;
    - Ensure that the on-scene investigation and documentation completed by the sergeant is thorough and complete; and
    - Document their review and analysis of the use of force.

Any commander who directs or authorizes the use of force in a crowd control event shall complete a use of force report, unless otherwise directed. Force type classification shall be based upon the highest level of force used.

Review of use of force reports shall be conducted by the Force Review Board (FRB) or the Sentinel Event Review Board (SERB), as directed by the Chief of Police or his/her designee.

**2072 Office of Professional Standards Requirements**

The Office of Professional Standards (OPS) commander shall be notified under the following circumstances:

- In-custody death, regardless of use of force.
- Use of force against a person that results in his/her transport to a hospital for treatment/evaluation.
- Use of force resulting in significant injury.
- Any indication of excessive or out of policy use of force.
- Discovery of information that conflicts with the officer's account of the incident (e.g., witness statements, video evidence, etc.).
- Force prohibited by policy (e.g., carotid chokehold, strikes to the head with blunt objects, etc.).
- Hard control against a restrained person.
- K9 bites of an unintended subject.
- K9 bites resulting in significant injury.
- K9 bites to the head, neck or groin.





## 2080 USE OF FORCE – CLASSIFICATIONS AND REVIEW MECHANISMS

Force Type	Threshold	Examples	Components of Notification, Investigation, and Review
<b>TYPE 0</b> includes soft empty hand contact	Physical interaction meant to separate, guide, and/or control that does not cause injury greater than temporary pain or redness;  not resisted or minimally resisted handcuffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arm bars and wrist locks</li> <li>• Non-strike pressure points</li> <li>• Push, not including impact strike</li> <li>• Temporary redness or abrasions on wrists from appropriately-applied handcuffs</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>No BlueTeam Report required</u></b></p> <p>Documentation required in Incident Report and/or Supplementary Reports</p> <p>Supervisory review of reports for thoroughness</p>
<b>TYPE 0</b> Bioguard Utilized	Use of a Bioguard <i>with no use of a higher level of force</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bioguard application with no other higher use of force (e.g., Type I, II, III, IV)</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>BlueTeam Type 0 Report required</u></b></p> <p>If another type of force is also used (e.g., a Show of Force (Type 1) or takedown (Type 2)) the Bioguard shall be documented in the BlueTeam report of the higher force type.</p>
<b>TYPE I</b> <sup>1</sup> Show of Force	Threatened use of force through the aiming, without firing, of a lethal or less-lethal projectile weapon at a person, or any arcing of a CEW to gain compliance from a subject	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aiming a weapons system at a person, including:</li> <li>• Any firearm, Flex Baton, PepperBall, CEW, 37mm and 40mm munitions</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>BlueTeam Type I Report required</u></b></p> <p>A supervisor shall be notified at time of incident, but response to the scene is discretionary</p> <p>Documentation required in Incident Report and/or Supplementary Reports</p>

<sup>1</sup> Type I involving SWAT operations will be handled by the SWAT sergeant in single report.



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Force Type	Threshold	Examples	Components of Notification, Investigation, and Review
<b>TYPE II</b>	<p>"Hard" empty hand tactics;</p> <p>the use of the Total Appendage Restraint Procedure (TARP) device;</p> <p>the use of Intermediate Weapons; or any use of force, including Type 0, resulting in injury or claim</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arm bars with claim of injury</li> <li>• Force resulting in abrasions</li> <li>• Strikes or kicks</li> <li>• Impact strikes</li> <li>• Hard takedowns</li> <li>• TARP application</li> <li>• Use of               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Flex Baton</li> <li>○ PepperBall</li> <li>○ OC spray</li> <li>○ Baton</li> <li>○ CEW</li> <li>○ Impact Munitions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b><u>BlueTeam Type II Report required</u></b></p> <p>A supervisor shall investigate incident at the scene, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interview involved officer(s);</li> <li>• Interview witness officer(s);</li> <li>• Interview subject(s) (all constitutional rights still apply and take priority);</li> <li>• Canvass for civilian witnesses and conduct interviews;</li> <li>• Canvass/collect/review BWCs, MVRs, 3<sup>rd</sup> party videos; and</li> <li>• Photos of involved officer(s) and subject(s), whether or not injured.</li> </ul> <p>Supervisor completes a BlueTeam use of force, following the template</p> <p>Review by next level of Command</p> <p>Subject to random selection by the Force Review Unit for review by the Division Commander</p>
<b>TYPE II- K9<sup>3</sup></b>	Use of force by Police Service Dog with no or minor injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• K9 bite of intended subject with no or minor injury</li> </ul>	<p>SDU officer shall notify on-duty sergeant</p> <p>Investigating sergeant shall respond to the scene to initiate the investigation following the Type II protocol</p> <p>Commander notification</p> <p>Division Commander review</p>
<b>TYPE III</b>	Use of force resulting in significant injury, or with indications of unreasonable or disproportionate force, or other serious policy violations, including constitutional violations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broken bones</li> <li>• Closed head injuries</li> <li>• Extensive sutures</li> <li>• Dislocations</li> <li>• Loss of consciousness due to application of force</li> <li>• Hard control against a restrained person</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>BlueTeam Type III Reports required</u></b></p> <p>Supervisory response and screening at the scene</p> <p>OPS Commander <b><u>shall</u></b> be notified</p> <p>OPS consultation with CID for CID response and investigation</p> <p>2-level COC review</p>

<sup>3</sup> The Force Review Board reviews all K9 bites.



Force Type	Threshold	Examples	Components of Notification, Investigation, and Review
<b>TYPE III- K9<sup>3</sup></b>	Use of force by Police Service Dog <i>on unintended subject or resulting in significant injury</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• K9 bite of unintended subject</li> <li>• K9 bite to head, neck, or groin</li> <li>• K9 bite resulting in significant injury</li> </ul>	<p>SDU officer shall notify on-duty sergeant</p> <p>Investigating sergeant shall respond to the scene to initiate investigation following the Type III protocol above</p> <p>Division Commander review</p>
<b>TYPE IV</b>	Use of deadly force, regardless of whether officer actions resulted in injury or death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officer discharge of firearm<sup>5</sup></li> <li>• Deliberate use of vehicle or other tool in a deadly force encounter</li> <li>• Impact weapon strike to the head</li> <li>• Use of force resulting in death</li> <li>• Vascular neck restraint<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• Chokehold<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>	<p><b><u>OPS BlueTeam Report required</u></b></p> <p>Supervisory response and screening at the scene</p> <p>OPS and/or CID response and investigation</p> <p>Reviewed by Force Review Board or Sentinel Event Review Board</p>

## 2090 FORCE REVIEW MECHANISMS

The Tucson Police Department employs a variety of administrative review mechanisms when evaluating use of force incidents. These reviews are intended to promote community trust, enhance transparency, and improve member and public safety by evaluating all aspects of an incident, including: policy, equipment, training, supervision, and members' actions, including actions leading up to the use of force.

### 2091 Chain of Command (COC)

Force Types I, II, and III will be reviewed by the COC through at least two levels above the rank of the member using force. Force types II-K9 and III-K9 will be reviewed by the COC through the level of Division Commander. The COC will prepare a written report, evaluating:

- Policy compliance;
- Use of Force (reasonableness, necessity, proportionality, and circumstances leading up to the use of force);
- Tactics and decision-making (including de-escalation);
- Supervision;
- Training;
- Equipment; and

<sup>5</sup> Does not include accidental discharge or dispatching a vicious dog or other animal, which, in the absence of additional factors, will be investigated and reviewed by the member's COC. A Firearms Discharge Report shall be completed by OPS.

<sup>6</sup> Vascular neck restraints are prohibited by department policy.

<sup>7</sup> Chokeholds are prohibited by department policy.



- Reporting and investigation.

**2092 Force Review Board (FRB) and Sentinel Event Review Board (SERB)**

All Type IV investigations will be reviewed by the FRB or the SERB, as directed by the Chief of Police or his/her designee. For more on the FRB and SERB, refer to General Order 3200.